NATIONAL LIBRARY of MEDICINE

NEWS

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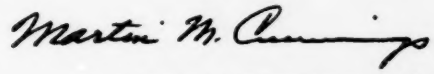
Message from the Director

The National Library of Medicine noted, with justifiable pride, two anniversaries in 1981. The first, in August, was the 25th anniversary of the National Library of Medicine Act, which provided for the transfer of the Armed Forces Medical Library to the U.S. Public Health Service, established a Board of Regents to advise on policy, and gave our institution its present name. The Act, which clearly specifies the functions of the Library, is the legislative base from which most subsequent NLM activities are derived.

The second anniversary, in October, marked the tenth year of MEDLINE, the Library's highly successful online bibliographic search and retrieval system. Begun with a group of 25 institutions searching a file of 130,000 references, today the network comprises almost 1800 U.S. and foreign institutions with access to more than six million computerized records. The network accommodated over two million searches in 1981, making it by far the most heavily used literature search and retrieval system in the sciences.

Among other notable achievements this year were the closing of the public card catalog and the installation of high-speed Computer-Output-Microform catalogs for use by our patrons, extending to five years the time span of literature available for online searching in MEDLINE, and the continued development, on schedule, of an improved MEDLARS III system.

I would like to thank the many members of the biomedical community—health practioners, librarians, and Regents of the Library—who have expressed their support for NLM this past year. To them, to our patrons and users, and to the staff of the National Library of Medicine, best wishes for the holiday season and the new year.



Martin M. Cummings, M.D.

New Friday Hours: 8:30 - 6:00

In addition to closing the History of Medicine Division Reading Room on Saturdays beginning in January 1982 (*News*, November 1981), the Library's General Reading Room will close at 6:00 p.m. rather than 9:00 p.m. on Fridays.

The hours of service are:

General Reading Room

Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

History of Medicine Reading Room

Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

NATIONAL LIBRARY of MEDICINE
NEWS

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Publications Notes

Bibliography of the History of Medicine, No. 16, 1980: This annual publication, prepared by the Library's History of Medicine Division, is now available from the Government Printing Office (Superintendent of Documents, Washington, DC 20402). This issue contains approximately 5,200 citations dealing with the history of medicine and its related sciences, professions, and institutions. It covers primarily material published in 1980 and indexed prior to August 1, 1981. Price: $8.50 ($10.65 foreign). Stock Number 017-052-00228-7.

Medical Subject Headings, 1982: The 1982 *MeSH*, which is sold by the Government Printing Office as Part 2 of the January *Index Medicus*, is also available separately. It consists of two sections—an alphabetical and a categorized list of all of the subject descriptors used to analyze the biomedical literature of the National Library of Medicine. Price: $12 ($15 foreign). Stock Number 017-052-72142-9. (Superintendent of Documents, U.S.G.P.O., Washington, DC 20402.)

Cumulated Abridged Index Medicus, 1981: This annual publication cumulates the citations appearing in the monthly *Abridged Index Medicus* during 1981. (*Abridged Index Medicus* is a bibliographic listing by subject and author of references from 118 English-language journals. Designed primarily for the individual practitioner and libraries of small hospitals and clinics, *AIM* is available from the Superintendent of Documents on subscription for $37; $46.25 foreign.) The casebound *Cumulated Abridged Index Medicus, 1981*, is available for $34 ($42.50 foreign). Stock Number 017-052-00229-5.

GPO Announces Prices for 1982 NLM Subscriptions, Changes for Other Titles: Listed below are the latest prices for NLM's subscription publications and increased prices for previously announced non-subscription items.

- *Abridged Index Medicus:* $37 ($46.25 foreign); single copies $4 ($5 foreign)
- *Health Sciences Serials:* $18 ($22.50 foreign); single copies $5 ($6.25 foreign)
- *Index Medicus:* $160 ($200 foreign); single copies $13 ($16.25 foreign), *Medical Subject Headings* ($12, $15 foreign)
- *National Library of Medicine Audiovisuals Catalog:* $26 ($32.50 foreign); annual cumulation included as fourth quarterly
- *National Library of Medicine Current Catalog:* $25 ($31.25 foreign); single copies $7.50 ($9.40)

Price Changes:

- *Bibliography of the History of Medicine*—1975-1979, No. 15: $21 ($26.25 foreign); 1970-1974, No. 10: $22 ($27.50 foreign)
- *Bibliography of Medical Reviews*—1976-1980: $33 ($41.25 foreign); 1971-1975: $25 ($31.25 foreign)
- *Centenary of Index Medicus:* 1879-1979—$8 ($10 foreign)
- *Cumulated Abridged Index Medicus*—1980: $23 ($28.75 foreign); 1977: $25 ($31.25 foreign); 1975: $24 ($30 foreign)
- *Cumulated Index Medicus*—1981: $190 ($237.50 foreign) *same as previously announced*; 1980: $190 ($237.50 foreign); 1979: $175 ($218.75 foreign); 1978: $175 ($218.75 foreign); 1977: $220 ($275 foreign); 1976: $220 ($275 foreign); 1975: $210 ($262.50 foreign)
- *Highlights in Medicolegal Relations*—$6 ($7.50 foreign)
- *Index of NLM Serial Titles, 4th Edition, 1981*—$48 ($60 foreign)
- *List of Journals Indexed in Index Medicus, 1981*—$7.50 ($9.40 foreign)
- *National Library of Medicine Audiovisuals Catalog* (annual)—1977: $11 ($13.75 foreign)

Cont. p. 3

From p. 2

- *National Library of Medicine AVLINE Catalog, 1975-1976*—$10 ($12.50 foreign)
- *National Library of Medicine Classification, 4th Edition, Revised 1981*—$15 ($18.75 foreign)
- *National Library of Medicine Current Catalog* (annual)—1980: $25 ($31.25 foreign); 1979: $37 ($46.25 foreign); 1977: $20 ($25 foreign); 1976: $25 ($31.25 foreign)
- *National Medical Audiovisual Center Catalog, 1981*—$8 ($10 foreign)
- *A Review of the U.S. Role in International Biomedical Research and Communications: International Health and Foreign Policy*—$9 ($11.25 foreign)
- *A Short Title Catalogue of 18th Century Printed Books in the National Library of Medicine*—$13 ($16.50 foreign)

New Literature Searches

Four new titles in the 1981 series of NLM Literature Searches are now available from the Library's Reference Section. Literature Searches are printed bibliographies produced through MEDLINE on subjects of current interest. They are available without charge. (A complete list of titles appears in each issue of *Index Medicus* and *Abridged Index Medicus*.) When requesting Literature Searches, please include title and number, enclose a self-addressed gummed label, and mail to:

Literature Search Program
Reference Section
National Library of Medicine
Bethesda, MD 20209

LS 81-23 *Adverse effects of selenium*. January 1977 through September 1981. 106 citations.

LS 81-24 *Chromium toxicology*. January 1977 through September 1981. 250 citations.

LS 81-25 *Arsenic toxicology*. January 1977 through October 1981. 354 citations.

LS 81-26 *Neuropeptides*. January 1980 through mid-1981 publications. 504 citations.

The Australian Connection

The kind of cooperation between two national libraries which leads to shared respect for their mutual successes was illustrated in a recent address to the NLM Board of Regents. **Harrison Bryan**, Director-General of the National Library of Australia, spoke to the Board on October 29 and titled his talk "The Australian Connection."

Mr. Bryan paid tribute to the National Library of Medicine and its Director, **Martin M. Cummings,** M.D., for their "cooperative and indeed long suffering support of the National Library of Australia in our endeavours to improve the provision of information services to the people of Australia. But beyond this we are very conscious of your pioneer and increasingly significant contributions to the improvement of world information services in the biomedical field."

He went on to discuss the ways Australia's geography, increasingly urbanized population, and government (federal, state, and local) relate to the current library scene. The total library resource in Australia is about 45 million items (increasing by perhaps 5% per year). Not unlike the situation in other countries, diminishing federal support has led Australia's National Library to stimulate resource sharing and to introduce new concepts of library service.

"And that brings us to your Australian connection. For the introduction of MEDLARS in 1969 not only comprised the dawn of computerized literature searching in Australia but also paved the way for an accelerated development towards better coordination of library services in our country. In that year an agreement was signed with the National Library of Medicine. The next year three of the Library's staff were trained here at Bethesda and the first batch-mode service was introduced....Over the course of its first four years the service grew to approximately 3000 retrospective searches and 2500 SDI searches per year. By the time Dr. Cummings came to Australia in 1975 to advise on further developments, MEDLARS was a way of life for Australian medical schools and the path was clear to proceed to the next stage—an online network."

Australia's online network currently includes 115 centers covering all university med-

Cont. p. 4

From p. 3

ical schools, five state health commissions, and most metropolitan hospitals with more than 200 beds. And recently, the concept of a Western Pacific regional health information network has gained impetus as countries such as the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore seek assistance from Australia and its National Library.

Mr. Bryan then detailed a number of other important advances currently taking place in Australia's cataloging operation and the near completion of a single online union list of all serials in Australian libraries.

He concluded by pointing up again the significance of MEDLINE in these developments: "It was crucial in creating the awareness necessary to bring about our progress over the last decade. It remains central to our continuing development."

1982/83 Associate Program

The National Library of Medicine announces its Associate Program for the 1982/83 academic year. The NLM Associate Program is a one-year post-graduate training program for outstanding graduates of schools of library/information science.

The Associate Program provides an opportunity for studying the resources and services of the National Library of Medicine and for exploring research and development activities. The Program prepares Associates for future leadership roles in health sciences librarianship, information science, and biomedical communications.

A master's degree in library/information science earned by August of the year of appointment is required from an A.L.A. accredited institution. U.S. citizenship may not be a requirement in all cases for the Associate Program. Candidates receive a one-year temporary Civil Service appointment at the GS-7 level ($15,922). The program runs from September 1 through August 31.

Application deadline for the 1982/83 Associate Program is *March 1, 1982*. The final date for requesting applications is February 1, 1982. Interested students and graduates may write or call:

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(301) 496-6590

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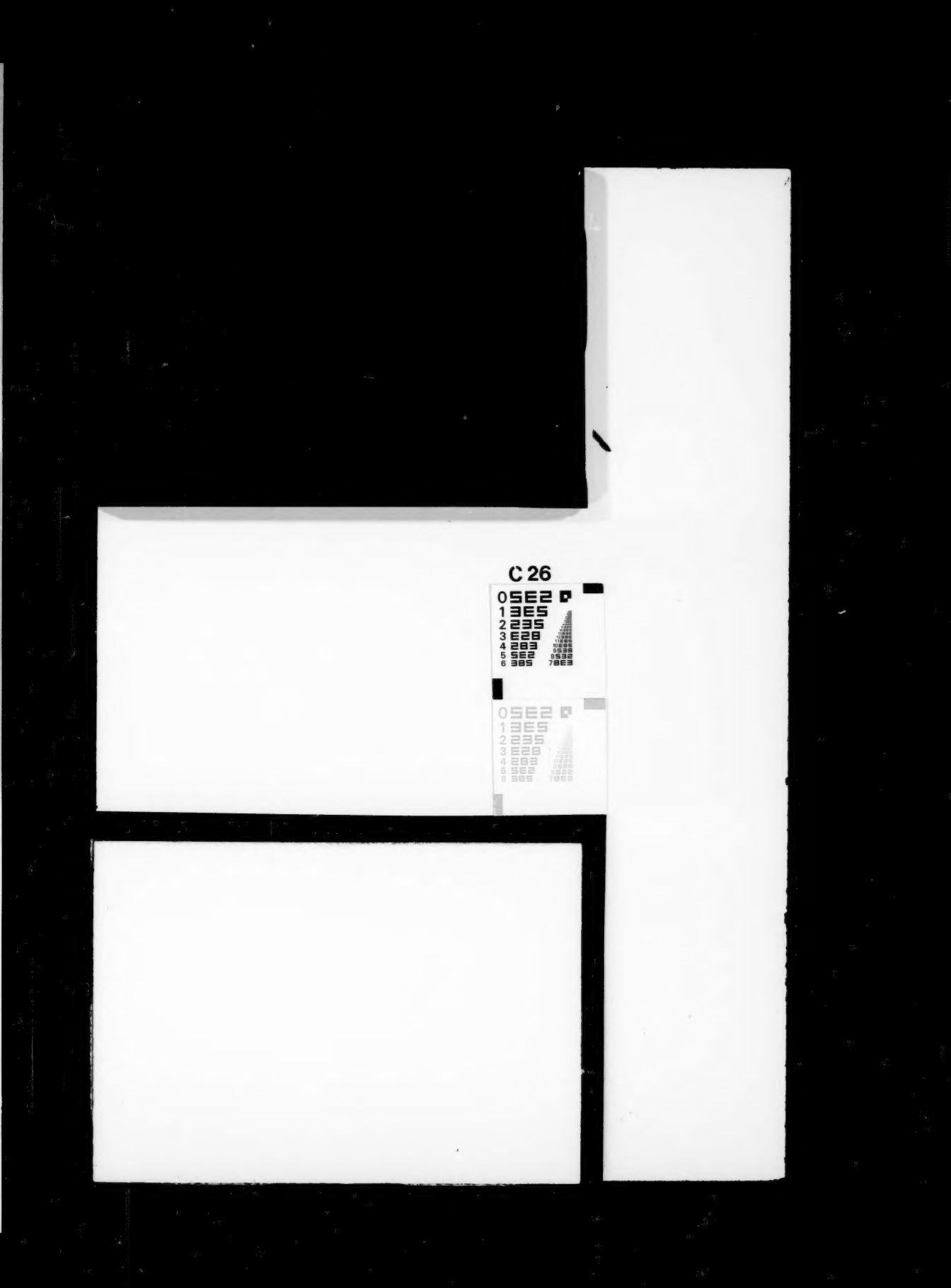
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